

Message Text

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67

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SY-03 CCO-00 CPR-01 /017 W

----- 051700

R 021350Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 358

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 0278

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS INSPECTION OF PERSONAL BAGGAGE

1. CONGEN OFFICERS BARKMAN AND THOMAS AND DEPT OFFICER MCCAY, DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, ACCOMPANIED NURMINEN TRUCKS ON MARCH 28 HELSINKI-LENINGRAD ROUTE AS DIPLOMATIC COURIERS FOR SHIPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. WHILE COMPLETING FORMALITIES AT VYBORG CUSTOMS/IMMIGRATION BUILDING, SOVIET CUSTOMS OFFICIAL EXAMINING TRUCKS PROCEEDED TO INSPECT PERSONAL BAGGAGE OF BARKMAN AND THOMAS BUT NOT OF MCCAY. CONGEN OFFICERS PROTESTED ORALLY UPON DISCOVERY OF INSPECTION AND SOVIET CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT BORDER POINT EVENTUALLY EXPRESSED REGRETS FOR INCIDENT. CONSULATE GENERAL HAS PROTESTED INCIDENT IN NOTE TO LENINGRAD DIPLOMATIC AGENCY. SOVIET CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN SCRUPULOUSLY CORRECT IN WAIVING INSPECTION OF PERSONAL BAGGAGE OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND, DEPENDING ON DIPLOMATIC AGENCY'S REPLY ON MATTER, CONGEN CONSIDERS INCIDENT AN ISOLATED EVENT WHICH DOES NOT SIGNIFY CHANGE IN TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL.

2. CONGEN RECEIVED FULL COOPERATION OF DIPLOMATIC AGENCY IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFE AND EXPEDITIOUS ROAD TRANSPORT OF THE THREE NURMINEN TRUCKS, WHOSE WEIGHT AND WIDTH REQUIRED DEVIATION FROM REGULAR PASSENGER CAR ROUTE BETWEEN VYBORG AND LENINGRAD. SOVIET TRAFFIC POLICE (GAI) PROVIDED ESCORT FOR TRUCKS FROM VYBORG TO ZELENOGORSK, WHICH GREATLY FACILITATED ACCESS.

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GLEYSTEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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